MMHCC Newsletter December 2003

MouseLine

"Of mice and women" was a common tagline at the recent Congress of the International Association for Breast Cancer Research in Sacramento, California. The meeting titled, "Advances in human breast cancer research: preclinical models", brought together bench scientists, clinicians, representatives of the private sector and advocates.

Why mice and women? Breast cancer is primarily a disease of women as evidenced by the 192,200 reported new cases in 2001 although it also occurs in men (less than 1% of all breast cancer cases). The mouse connection? Genetically engineered mice were the featured preclinical models for modeling human breast cancer.

A great success of this meeting was the integration of the advocacy community members into participatory roles of symposium moderators and speakers. Their accolades for research accomplishments in the breast cancer challenge and their encouragement for further scientific inroads into understanding breast cancer were not only reminders why cancer researchers "are doing what they're doing", but served as bi-winged messages that touched hearts and intellects. Thank you, advocates.

Meetings

January 7 - 9, 2004
MMHCC Steering Committee Meeting
Los Angeles, California
Meeting Info: http://www.scgcorp.com/mmhccla2004/index.asp

January 8, 2004
Symposium "Imaging Cancer in Mice and Men" sponsored by MMHCC
University of California, Los Angeles
Covel Commons, Grand Horizon Room

January 25 - 29, 2004
Waikoloa, Hawaii
6th AACR/JCA Joint Conference
"Advances in Cancer Research: Molecular and Cellular Biology, Genomics and Proteomics, Targeted Therapeutics, Novel Clinical Trials, Molecular and Genetic Epidemiology/Prevention"
Meeting Info: http://www.aacr.org/2004JCA.asp

February 17 - 22, 2004
Keystone, Colorado
Mouse Models of Human Cancer
Meeting information: http://www.keystonesymposia.org/Meetings/ViewMeetings.cfm?MeetingID=662

Funding Opportunities

Quantum Projects: Technology-based Advances in Healthcare
(NOT-EB-03-011)
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-EB-03-011.html

Sidney Kimmel Foundation for Cancer Research
The Kimmel Translational Science Award
http://www.kimmel.org/About41.html
Deadline: Applications must be received by December 6, 2003

Bioinformatics

New additions to the cancer Bioinformatics Infrastructure Objects (caBIO)
http://ncicb.nci.nih.gov/NCICB/core/caBIO/cabio_new/index.html
Recently the NCI Center for Bioinformatics (NCICB) released caBIO 2.0 which integrates major infrastructure technologies and provides a programmatic interface to the NCICB supported Cancer Models Database (caMOD) as well as the Gene Expression Data Portal (GEDP). The cancer Bioinformatics Infrastructure Objects (caBIO) model contains domain objects, each of which represents an entity found in biomedical research. These domain objects are related to each other and can bring to the surface, biomedical knowledge that was previously buried in the various primary data sources.

Enterprise Vocabulary Services (EVS) Domain Objects in caBIO
The caBIO Application Programming Interface (API) has been extended to provide access to both the NCI Distributed Terminology Server (DTS) and NCI Metaphrase. The DTS hosts the NCI Thesaurus and other vocabularies. Controlled vocabularies are important to applications involving electronic data sharing such as clinical trials data collection and reporting.

The NCI Thesaurus is a biomedical thesaurus developed by EVS in response to a need for shared vocabularies among the projects and initiatives within both the NCI and the entire cancer research community.

The NCI Metaphrase Server provides access to the NCI Metathesaurus, which is based on the National Library of Medicine's Unified Medical Language System Metathesaurus (UMLS) supplemented with additional cancer-centric vocabulary. Like the UMLS Metathesaurus, the NCI Metathesaurus provides mappings of terms across vocabularies.

Cancer Models Database (caMOD) Domain Objects in caBIO
caBIO 2.0 via the caMOD Domain Objects now provides an Application Programming Interface (API) to the Cancer Models Database. The database contains animal model information such as genotypic and phenotypic descriptions, histopathology, images, and publications.